

Summer 2015

Together With TOSHA



Department of
Labor & Workforce
Development

Commissioner Burns Phillips • 220 French Landing Drive, Nashville, TN • 800-249-8510



Summer is here and it is another hot one. When the temperatures rise employers should include specific training on heat stress, provide ample liquids, and additional rest breaks in a shaded area (**WATER.REST.SHADE**). Check the OSHA web site to find fact sheets, posters, quick cards, training guides, and wallet cards. OSHA also has a [Heat Safety Tool APP](#) for your smartphone.

The 38th Annual Tennessee Safety & Health Congress is almost upon us! The Congress will be held July 26th-29th, 2015. Since 1977, the Congress has been a joint venture between the Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (*TOSHA*) and the American Society of Safety Engineers (*ASSE*). The TSHC offers a variety of safety and health seminars, product demonstrations, and networking opportunities that can be used for the promotion, increased awareness, and implementation of safety and health practices in the workplace. Registration is available at the event or online registration is open until July 22nd. Click [here](#) to learn more about the TSHC and to register!

On August 3rd, 2015, the **NEW** Confined Spaces in Construction standard will become enforceable in Tennessee. TOSHA staff is conducting outreach training to assist employers and employees to become compliant with the new requirements. For information on training, please view our [fall training schedule](#).

Confined spaces present physical and atmospheric hazards that can be avoided if they are recognized and controlled prior to performing work. The new standard, Subpart AA of 29 CFR will impart the same level of protection for construction workers entering permit spaces already provided to workers in other industries.

The Tennessee Construction Safety Stand-Down was a success! This year's topic was health hazards in construction. Employers across the state shut down their job sites on June 8th, 2015, and trained employees on health hazards commonly found on construction sites along with methods of controlling those hazards. Attendees were provided certificates and hardhat stickers to mark the event. More than 18,500 employees and over 100 employers participated in the Tennessee Construction Safety Stand-Down. Thank you to all employers and employees who participated and to the organizations that sponsored the event.

- Steve Hawkins, TOSHA Administrator

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The Kingsport Area Safety Council hosted its 30th Annual Safety Seminar on May 13, 2015, at the Eastman Chemical Company’s Toy E. Reed Employee Center. Tennessee OSHA was one of the many organizations sponsoring the event.

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This year’s event had more than 430 attendees and 20 plus vendors. Participants and vendors came from all over North East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. TOSHA Administrator Steve Hawkins was the morning keynote speaker. Participants then were able to choose from five breakout sessions relating to both workplace and home safety. There were also demonstrations on fall protection by the Sullivan County Volunteer Firefighters.

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Mark your calendar for next year’s event, May 10, 2016, and join [KASC](#) for this educational and fun event!

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New Permit-Required Confined Spaces Rule set to go into Effect on August 3, 2015, in Tennessee

Manholes, crawl spaces, tanks, and other confined spaces are not intended for continuous occupancy. They are also difficult to exit in an emergency. People working in confined spaces face life-threatening hazards including toxic substances, electrocutions, explosions, and asphyxiation.

This rule will provide construction workers with protections already afforded to workers in manufacturing and general industry, with some differences tailored to the construction industry.

Unlike most general industry worksites, construction sites are continually evolving, with the number and characteristics of confined spaces changing as work progresses. This rule emphasizes training, continuous worksite evaluation, and communication requirements to further protect workers' safety and health.

Here are a few of the requirements in the new rule that differ from the existing rule:

- A "competent person" must conduct the initial jobsite evaluation in the final rule. The OSHA standard that applies to manufacturing and general industry standard does not specify who has to conduct the evaluation. The competent person approach is common in construction industry rules.
- Information exchange requirements in the final rule inform employers what discussions must be conducted, and when, during confined space entry.
- Air contaminant and engulfment hazard monitoring must be done continuously, as the technology is readily available for most hazards. For substances where continuous monitoring technology is not available, periodic monitoring is required.
- The construction rule explicitly requires employers to coordinate emergency services before workers enter the confined space.
- During "controlled atmosphere" entry, employers may isolate physical hazards rather than eliminate all of them (such as using lock-out/tag-out, blocking off access to struck-by hazards, etc.). This is not inconsistent with interpretations issued for the General Industry rule, but is clarified in the final rule for construction.

The final rule was officially published in the Federal Register on Monday, May 4th, and becomes effective on August 3, 2015.

For more information on confined spaces click [here](#), or visit the frequently asked questions [page](#). Here is a list of upcoming [fall training seminars](#) that offer training on the new confined spaces rule.



TOSHA has Adopted the Federal Policy on Enforcement of the new Confined Space Standard in Construction

The following information provides guidance on the enforcement of the Confined Spaces in Construction standard published on May 4, 2015. The new standard goes into effect on August 3, 2015. Requests for an extension of the effective date have indicated a need for additional time for training and the acquisition of equipment necessary to comply with the new standard. OSHA will not delay the effective date, but instead will postpone full enforcement of the new standard for 60 days from the effective date of August 3, 2015 to October 2, 2015. During this 60-day period, OSHA will not issue citations to an employer **making good faith efforts** to comply with the new standard, as long as the employer is in compliance with either the training requirements of the new standard, found at 29 CFR 1926.1207, or the training requirements found at former 29 CFR 1926.21 (b)(6)(i), which is provided:

All employees required to enter into confined or enclosed spaces shall be instructed as to the nature of the hazards involved, the necessary precautions to be taken, and in the use of protective and emergency equipment required. The employer shall comply with any specific regulations that apply to work in dangerous or potentially dangerous areas.

Employers who fail to train their employees consistent with either 29 CFR 1926.1207 or 1926.21 (b)(6)(i) would properly be cited for violation of 1926.1207(a). Factors OSHA will consider when evaluating whether an employer is engaged in good faith efforts to comply with the new standard include:

- If the employer has not trained its employees as required under the new standard, whether the employer has scheduled such training,
- If the employer does not have the equipment required for compliance with the new standard, including personal protective equipment, whether the employer has ordered or otherwise arranged to obtain such equipment required for compliance and is taking alternative measures to protect employees from confined space hazards, and
- Whether the employer has engaged in any additional efforts to educate workers about confined space hazards and protect workers from those hazards.

WATER. REST. SHADE.

The work can't get done without them.

Tennessee OSHA wants Tennessee workers and employers to be aware of the symptoms of heat illness and heat stroke as temperatures start to rise this summer. Every year, thousands of workers are affected by exposure to heat.

Workers exposed to hot and humid conditions are at risk of heat illness, especially those doing heavy work tasks or using bulky protective clothing and equipment. Some workers might be at greater risk than others if they have not built up a tolerance to hot conditions.

Industries most affected by heat-related illness are construction; trade, transportation and utilities; agriculture; building, grounds maintenance; landscaping services; and support activities for oil and gas operations.

Signs of heat related illnesses are headache, dizziness, fainting, weakness, wet skin, irritability, thirst, nausea, or vomiting. Some symptoms associated with heat stroke are confusion, the inability to think clearly, passing out, seizures, or no longer being sweaty.

The body normally cools itself by sweating. During hot weather, especially with high humidity, sweating isn't enough. Body temperature can rise to dangerous levels if precautions are not taken. Heat illnesses range from heat rash and heat cramps to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat stroke can result in death if the victim does not receive proper medical attention.

To prevent heat illness and fatalities:

- Drink water every 15 minutes, even if you are not thirsty.
- Rest in the shade to cool down.
- Wear a hat and light-colored clothing.
- Learn the signs of heat illness and what to do in an emergency.
- Keep an eye on fellow workers.
- "Easy does it" on your first days of work in the heat. You need to get used to it.

Remember these three simple words: Water, Rest, Shade. Taking these precautions can mean the difference between life and death.

If symptoms of heat stress or heat stroke appear, it is important to seek medical attention immediately.

Click [here](#) for more information on heat stress and heat stroke.



SAFETY FEST TN IN OAK RIDGE

More than 40 Free Safety and Health Training Classes and Seminars Available

Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administration (TOSHA) has teamed up with the Oak Ridge Business Safety Partnership (ORBSP), along with dozens of other organizations, to host the 4th annual Safety Fest TN. This year's event will be held in Oak Ridge from Monday, September 14 - Friday, September 18, and will feature experts leading more than 40 free classes, seminars, demonstrations, and a safety expo with 40 exhibitors from a wide variety of organizations.

"We truly want to make a difference in the workplace," said Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips. "Everyone involved in Safety Fest TN has the same goal in mind, and that is to get workers home safe to their families. There is an abundance of knowledge to be gained from this fest and it is all free."

"We are always thrilled to have TOSHA's support and participation," said Jenny Freeman, one of ORBSP's leaders. "TOSHA has been instrumental across the board in this year's event. We are pleased to have both TOSHA Administrator Steve Hawkins and companies from Tennessee's Voluntary Protection Program presenting at this year's Safety Fest TN."

The free classes, seminars and demonstrations are designed to appeal to all safety and health professionals, managers, and workers. Attendees come from large and small businesses, non-profits, labor unions, and federal, state, and local government agencies. Some of the classes offered include Fire Safety, Evacuation and Emergency Planning, Workplace Violence, and the OSHA General Industry 10-Hour Course.

"TOSHA is thankful for the opportunity to be a part of Safety Fest TN," said Tennessee Occupational Safety and Health Administrator Steve Hawkins. "By offering this event for free, we hope to attract a variety of industry professionals making an impact on the workplace at all levels. This event has something to offer everyone."

The safety expo will take place on September 15 and 16 and will feature more than 40 organizations providing a range of equipment and services. The exhibiting organizations will feature information on the latest innovations, products, and services focusing on a safe and healthy workplace.

Joe Estey will be this year's keynote speaker on September 15. Joe is a nationally recognized safety specialist who brings innovative solutions to complex problems facing some of our country's highest hazard and complex industries.

The majority of the classes, seminars and demonstrations will be held at New Hope Center in Oak Ridge, but they will also be offered at five other locations. Safety Fest TN is also expanding its Hispanic outreach, offering twice as many safety classes in more locations.

For more information on Safety Fest TN and for registration information please visit www.safetyfesttn.org. Spots will fill up quickly, so register today to attend!





Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Burns Phillips presented the employees of **Frito-Lay** in Fayetteville with the Volunteer STAR Award on April 2nd, in recognition of the site's third certification.

On April 17th, TOSHA Administrator Steve Hawkins presented the employees of **Gerdau Ameristeel** in Collierville with the Volunteer STAR Award in recognition of the site's second certification.



On April 22nd, TOSHA Administrator Steve Hawkins presented the employees of **Keurig Green Mountain Coffee** in Knoxville with a Commissioner's Award of Excellence.

TOSHA Assistant Administrator Jim Flanagan presented the employees of **Perdue Farms** in Monterey with a Commissioner's Award of Excellence on April 30th.



On May 20th, TOSHA Administrator Steve Hawkins presented the employees of **Evergreen Packaging-Royal Blue Chip Mill** in Pioneer with their Volunteer STAR Award in recognition of the site's second certification.



SHARP UPDATE

The most recent SHARP site, **JD Metals** in Chuckey, TN, was presented with the SHARP award on June 4, 2015. TOSHA Assistant Administrator Jim Flanagan presented the award to Jim Braddock, Owner, and the SHARP flag to the safety committee and all site employees.

Additional guests and speakers attending the event included Tom Ferguson, CEO of the Greene County Partnership and Zak Neas, Greene County Commissioner. All of the speakers discussed the importance of workplace safety and health and its impact on the Greene County community.

JD Metals manufactures steel roofing and siding panels from steel coils. The steel is roll-formed and cut to length.

ECMD in Sparta was recently re-certified for SHARP. Currently, the program has 17 active SHARP sites in Tennessee. For more information about SHARP, please contact TOSHA's Consultative Services at (800) 325-9901.

2015 Safety and Health Stand-Down was a Success!



This year on June 8th, construction employers and workers across Tennessee were encouraged to pause in their workday and talk about health hazards, and dedicate themselves yet again to the safety of Tennessee’s most valuable resource - it’s workers.

Approximately 105 companies participated in this year’s stand-down reaching 18,523 workers.



Proud Partners for the 2015 Health Hazards in Construction Safety Stand Down



BULLETIN BOARD

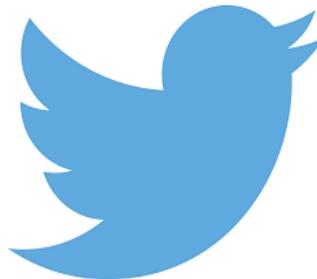
For a look at upcoming fall TOSHA training seminars click [HERE](#).



Make sure to mark your calendars! The TSHC will be held at Gaylord Opryland July 26-29. For more information and to register to attend please visit:

<https://www.tnsafetycongress.org/>

Please make sure you follow us on social media for all the latest updates about the TSHC and for information on vendors, safety tips, etc.



What: Safety Fest TN

When: September 14-18

Where: The New Hope Center, 602 Scarboro Road, Oak Ridge, TN

Why: To provide FREE training to promote safety and health in Tennessee workplaces.

<http://safetyfesttn.org/>





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